SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: I need your protection..

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have the protection. But you cannot go beyond the established practice of the House ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: I have not spoken on this subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One Member of your party has already put his supplementary ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: I am a Member of this House...

MR. CHAIRMAN: But the supplementries have to be divided ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री शाहिद सिद्दिकी: सर, ...(व्यवधान)... एक एम०पी० के घर पर हमला हुआ ...(व्यवधान)... महाराष्ट्र में ...(व्यवधान)... यह इस हाउस की मैम्बर हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

† [شری شاہد صدیقی : سر، ۔مداخلت۔۔ایک ایم پی۔ کے گھر پر حملہ ہوا ۔مداخلت۔ مہاراشٹر میں ۔مداخلت۔۔ یہ اس ہاؤس کی ممبر ہیں ۔مداخلت۔]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: You tell me that you are not giving me protection. I will accept it. But tell me so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me make this position clear...*(Interruptions)*...Please do not interrupt the proceedings ...*(Interruptions)*... I would request the hon. Members to resume their seats ...*(Interruptions)*... Let us be very clear so to what the procedure about the Question Hour is. As for the hon. Member, who puts the question, and if there are two Members associated with the question, the first Member gets two supplementaries and the second Member gets one supplementary. And, thereafter, three supplementaries are being allowed. In fact, there is a decision of the House that two supplementaries should suffice. I am being indulgent by allowing sufficient number of supplementaries ...*(Interruptions)*... Kindly resume your seats ...*(Interruptions)*... I would request you to resume your seats. Don't interrupt the Chair ...*(Interruptions)*... If you make allegations, be careful about it. Let us go ahead with the next question.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: We are walking out.

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 342.

Barbed wire fencing along international border

*342. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of barbed wire fencing erected so far on the international border in different States of the country;

† [Transliteration in Urdu Script]

(b) the length that remains to be completed, State-wise;

(c) how many families have fallen within Indian territory, but beyond fencing in different States;

(d) whether Government is pondering over development schemes in the areas falling beyond the fencing;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) and (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government have undertaken the construction of fencing on Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangaldesh borders. The State-wise details of the length of barbed wire fencing erected on these borders and the fencing that remains to be completed are as under:

INDO-PAKISTAN BORDER (*Length in Km.*)

Name of the State	Fencing proposed	Fencing completed till February, 2008	To be completed (Ongoing works)
Punjab	461	462*	Nil
Rajasthan	1057	1048*	Nil
Jammu International Border	180	185*	Nil
Gujarat	310	217	93
TOTAL:	2008	1912	93

*Length varies due to topographical factors/field situation/alignment of fencing.

INDO-BANGLADESH BORDER

(*Length in Km.*)

Name of the State	Fencing proposed	Fencing completed till February, 2008	To be completed (Ongoing works)
West Bengal	1528	1186	342
Assam	224	201	23
Meghalaya	399	378	21
Tripura	856	684	172
Mizoram	400	123	277
TOTAL:	3407	2572	835

(c) According to available reports, no families live beyond the barbed wire fencing on Indo-Pakistan border.

According to the information available, the State-wise details of families and population located within Indian territory but beyond fencing on Indo-Bangladesh border are as under:

Sl.	Name of the State	Number of Villages	Number of families	Population
1.	Tripura	97	2963	20653
2.	Meghalaya	45	1778	16049
3.	West Bengal	119	9869	51690
4.	Assam	28	735	4150
5.	Mizoram	27	886	4553
	TOTAL:	316	16231	97095

(d) to (f) The normal developmental schemes of the Government which are implemented in villages also cover the households outside the fence. In addition to these schemes, there is a special programme for development of the border areas *i.e.* Border Area Development Programme (BADP) which is financed entirely by the Government of India. The projects undertaken cover, *inter-alia*, roads, bridges, education, health and allied sectors. The actual works to be undertaken are decided by a Committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the state concerned.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, it is evident from the reply given by the hon. Minister that 835 kms. Of the border still remains to be fenced. Out of these 835 kms., along the Tripura border, the work to be completed is to the extent of 172 kms. We all know that this area, where the fencing work is due, is a strategically important area. So far as combating insurgency is concerned, this portion is very important. Hence this has to be fenced as early as possible. This is one point of my supplementary. My supplementary has two points. Now, there are two cases; (i) where the fencing has been done; and (ii) where the fencing is due. In places where it is due, I have stated about it. Now in places where it has been done, it was not done properly in the beginning, and that is why, in some places, the fencing has been erected half a kilometer away from the zero point. So, my specific question is whether the fencing, wherever it exists now, will be removed to 150 yards. The area is not very long, but it has created a multiplicity of problems. Then, where the fencing is due, will it be erected as soon as possible?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, it is true that at some places it has not been possible to erect the fence. But, in order to put up the fence over there, we need land; land has to be acquired and, then, there are certain other problems involved in it. Bangladesh is also objecting to the steps taken by the Government of India for erecting the fence at certain places. Now, these disputes have also to be resolved. Only then will it become possible. But we would like to do our best to see that this area is completely fenced. There is one more problem. At certain places, the area is riverine and marshy and it becomes very difficult to have the fence erected over there. Now, we erect the fence at such places and after one or two rains, the area around the poles is washed away and the fence also gets damaged. These are some of the problems which we have faced. As far as putting up the fence within the area of 150 yards away from the border is concerned, that is a matter which is being discussed between the officers and the Governments of the two countries and we are trying to solve it;

we are trying to convince Bangladesh that they should not take any objection to this thing. They are saying that the 'defensive' or 'offensive' structures cannot be constructed on the border. We are trying to say that this is not a kind of offensive structure and that it is just to see that there is no illegal migration from one place to the other. And yet, when we convince them fully to get their cooperation, sometimes the matter gets delayed and it is because of this that this remains to be done.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, I come to my second supplementary. The fencing has appreciably minimized many of the problems, particularly the border problems. At the same time, it has brought about some new problems. For instance, not all the people residing around the fencing area have been provided with houses because all of them are not in the BPL list. That is one problem. That is why people have been facing difficulties in moving across the fencing. The gates are not being opened and closed at those hours which suit the villages. The opening and closing of the gates is done as per the suitability of the BSF. So, the people there cannot plough the land, they cannot graze their animals, can not send kids to schools. They cannot go and buy their rations or go to the markets, and so on. All these problems are cropping up. That is why there is a lot of resentment amongst the local people against the BSF jawans deployed there. So, I would urge the hon. Minister to increase the strength of the BSF there so that the gates may be manned round-the-clock. I would like to know whether the strength of the BSF will be increased there and whether the BSF personnel deployed in that area will be given proper orientation and counselling so that the differences between the BSF personnel and the locals are removed.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, we have already taken a decision to increase the strength of the BSF in that area. We have decided to raise a few more BSF battalions and those battalions will be deployed in that area. That is one thing. Then, we are increasing the number of gates that we have put up over there. We have also told them that the gates should be opened in such a manner that those who would like to go to their fields should have the facility to go there without any difficulty; so, instead of closing the gates by six in the evening, if they closed the gates a little later and open the gates early in the morning, that would help. At night time, keeping the gates open and allowing the people have some implications. But, then, certainly, we can open the gates at 4 o'clock in the morning and close the gates at 8 o'clock in the evening. That can be done. But, we are examining this issue. We have to consider what are the implications of keeping all these gates open in the night time also, throughout. This is one thing. The second point, which you made, and which is a very relevant point, and which we agree is this. I would like to inform the House that we have taken steps to see that the border areas are developed. A lot of money has been given. But that is for putting up infrastructure over there, and not for constructing houses. We are thinking as to how the people who are on the other side of the border and who have not been able to come on this side of the border, into the Indian territory, and live there will be helped to have their own shelter and housing facility also. That is the project we are considering, and after a proper decision is taken, we will do that.

श्री देवव्रत बिश्वास: सभापति महोदय, यह जो समस्या है, यह इंडो-बंगला देश बार्डर की समस्या सबसे ज्यादा वेस्ट बंगाल बार्डर के साथ जुड़ी हुई है। डेढ़ हजार किलोमीटर से ज्यादा बार्डर है और आपने जो हिसाब यहां दिया

है, वह 50 हजार से ऊपर दिया है, इसलिए मेरा कहना यह है कि आपके ये आंकड़े ठीक नहीं हैं और कहीं ज्यादा लोग इससे प्रभावित हैं। आप अभी-अभी जिस सवाल का जवाब दे रहे थे, मैं उसी के साथ यह स्पष्टीकरण मांगना चाहता हूं कि क्या जीरो प्वाइंट और फेंसिंग के अंदर रहने वाले लोगों की खेती बर्बाद हो रही है, किसान वहां खेती नहीं कर पा रहे हैं और वहां पर स्कूल, गवर्नमेंट आफिसिज और पंचायत को भी वे लोग यूज नहीं कर पा रहे हैं? In between the 'O Point' and the fencing, farmers are suffering. Schools are also there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question please.

SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Panchayat offices are there. If you really want to solve this problem, then you will have to rehabilitate the affected families. Are you ready for proper rehabilitation of the affected people? You will have to think of a proper and complete rehabilitation plan which will help these people socially and economically. और इसी के साथ ही यह जुड़ी हुई है, यह नई समस्या है।

श्री सभापति: आप सवाल पूछिए।

श्री देवव्रत बिस्वास: इसी से जुड़ा हुआ सवाल है कि इंदिरा-मुजीब एग्रीमेंट के तहत दोनों देशों के एन्कलेव के एक्सचेंज होने की बात थी। आप तो फेंसिंग दे रहे हैं, लेकिन फेंसिंग के अंदर बंगला देश का एन्कलेव है और इधर हमारा इंडियन एन्कलेव है। How will you protect the Indian citizens who are living inside Bangladesh, but that land belongs to India? The Enclaves are there and our land is there. So, you have to give a different look to this issue because the Indira-Mujib Agreement is yet to be implemented. The Nehru-Noon Agreement is also concerned with it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Could you please conclude?

श्री देवव्रत बिस्वास: लेकिन एग्रीमेंट होने के बाद भी हम बंगला देश के साथ यह निबटा नहीं पा रहे हैं और इसीलिए बार्डर की समस्या है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask the question.

श्री देवव्रत बिस्वास: तो मेरा यह सीधा क्वेश्चन है, part (1), whether you have a complete rehabilitation plan, social and economic, for these people. You have to give land against land; you have to give house against house. A proper rehabilitation of these people is needed. Sir, part (2) of my supplementary is relating to exchange of Enclave. I want to know whether you are ready to implement your agreement with Bangladesh. That is the point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before the hon. Minister replies. I would like to raise a question with the House. Why is it that we are showing ourselves incapable of asking a question as a question and insisting on making every question into a speech? Please go ahead ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: The same should apply to the Ministers also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes; yes. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: The answer should be an answer, not a speech. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I will try to give a reply to the question and not make a statement or give a lecture. ...(*Interruptions*)... This area is being developed and we have provided funds for helping the people over there. We are spending money on developing the infrastructure over there roads, schools, hospitals and things like that.

We have also taken up this matter with the Planning Commission and we would like to spend a little more money than what we have been doing up to this time. That is the second point.

The third thing is, Sir, there are houses on the other side of the fence. They are really facing some difficulties. We are trying to understand whether it would be possible for us to give the housing facility also on this side of the fence. This matter is under consideration of the Government. We are taking necessary steps.

As far as the enclaves are concerned, these are the historical facts. If you want to implement any agreement which is arrived at between the countries, one party cannot implement the agreement without having cooperation from the other side. Then, if the other side is looking at that agreement and interpreting the agreement in a different manner, we face certain difficulties. We are in the process of discussing all these issues at different levels at the Secretaries level, at the Ministers level, at the Foreign Ministries-level and then at the Governments-level. We hope that these problems will be understood by both the sides and they will be resolved.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, it is a sorry state of affairs. In 1985 there was an accord with our hon. Prime Minister, late Shri Rajiv Gandhi to seal the border. But, even after 23 years, it has been stated by the hon. Minister that 835 kms. Is yet to be sealed. Sir, it is unfortunate on our part.

In the riverine border, I have seen, most of the criminal activities are on. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would give an assurance that there would be an imposition of night curfew in that area, in the riverine border from 4 p.m. to 7 a.m., if done, it would be effective to control criminal activities because they are going on in the riverine border. That is my first question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one question and one supplementary, please.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, I would like to have a time-frame from the hon. Minister as to when this 835 kms. of the border will be sealed.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, we have a very long border, more than 4000 kms. Out of that, this is the length of the border where it has not been possible for us to put up the fence. I have explained the difficulties involved in putting up the fence over there. Riverine area is a very difficult area. The rivers, the flow of water, keep changing track from one place to the other. That also affects. That is also a problem. There, we are having floating BOPs. We also have towers on the sides of the riverine area, from the wedge. A watch is kept on the movement of persons from one side to the other. That is also done. Then, patrolling is also done. But, I do agree that in spite of all these steps having been taken, sometimes, people try to sneak into this area or go out of this area. We would like to do better than this. We would like to have more posts over there. We would like to deploy more BSF personnel over there. We would like to use all kinds of modern gadgets which will stop the illegal movement of the persons from one side to the other.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, to respond to your question to the House, having been in Parliament for 40 years, I do feel that before asking a question, a certain amount of introductory material is necessary where these questions are very complex. We cannot just ask a simple question as in an examination. Sir, I would crave your indulgence, at least 3 minutes time a member should be given to give a background.

Sir, this is where I come to my question. The hon. Member has raised the question of enclaves. I was in Mrs. Gandhi's Government when the Bangladesh War took place, when Mujib-Indira Gandhi Agreement took place. 37 years have elapsed. Surely, in 37 years it is time that we sorted this problem out with Bangladesh. So many regimes have changed in Bangladesh. Today there is a new regime. Surely, it is time. How long are we going to wait *ad-infinitum* to this matter? Or does the Government of India have some timeframe within which the problem of enclaves will be sorted out?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, before India became independent, many rulers were there, and they fought wars between themselves and when one ruler was defeated, a particular piece of land was given to victor. And that is how the enclaves were created over there. So, we have many enclaves over there, which do not have access to their areas. This is a matter ...(*Interruptions*)... If you want to hand over the area, which is under your control to them, they object. The people who are living there, if that area is to be handed over to you, they complain. The human element is also involved in it. If it were so easy as to take a chair from here and leave it there and take chair from there and place it here, we would have done that. The human element is also involved in it. That is why it is taking time ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, that is why the attempts are being made on both the sides, in both enclaves, but the people are objecting to it. Both the Governments have agreed to it. ...(*Interruptions*)... That is why the matter has become complicated and psychological, not only something which can be handled by taking an administrative decision. But the intention of the Government is to see that this problem is also solved and solved by obtaining the cooperation of the other side.

Gram Panchayats rallying points for Job Cards under NREGS

*343. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:††
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gram Panchayats are now becoming the rallying point to issue Job-Cards and giving work to the eligible rural households, under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) being implemented in 330 districts from April, 2007;

(b) if so, whether the requisite infrastructure and expertise is available with them;

(c) whether the projects being executed under this Scheme are identified by the Panchayats;

(d) whether any district/State level guidelines exist; and

(e) whether the assets being created under this Scheme and the amount disbursed, are being periodically monitored?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

††The question was actually asked on this floor of the House by Shrimati Syeda Anwara Taimur.